

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EPA-01 OES-06 DOTE-00 CEQ-01

AGRE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 STRE-00 FEA-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6822

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5108

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR EISENSTAT AND AMB OWEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: STR STRAUSS VISIT TO TOKYO

1. SUMMARY. SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT STRAUSS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MITI, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF GOJ IN PREPARATIONS FOR LONDON ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AND RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL TRADE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RELAXED AND CORDIAL MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER, EMPHASIS WAS ON NEED TO AVOID RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONISM SUCH AS FOLLOWED THE FAILURE OF THE LONDON ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF 1933 IN WHICH PM PARTICIPATED. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT MAJOR EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO RESIST GROWING TRENDS TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM AND THAT A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP TO REACH SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. PERSONAL GREETINGS WERE EXTENDED FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND A PERSONAL MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM THE PRIME
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MINISTER. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO REACH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON TELEVISIONS THIS MONTH SO THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE OUT OF THE WAY BY THE SUMMIT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE SHOULD HAVE VERY STRONG LANGUAGE AGAINST PROTECTIONISM AND IN FAVOR OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE MTN AS THIS WOULD BE A SIGNAL OF THE POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. WHILE QUESTIONS RELATING TO OUTSTANDING BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES SUCH AS CHERRIES, AUTO EMISSION STANDARDS, STEEL, THROWN SILK AND CITRUS WERE DISCUSSED WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS, THE PRINCIPAL DISCUSSIONS DURING THIS VISIT WERE ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE MTN AND THE SUMMIT WITH VICE MINISTER YOSHINO AND ON JAPANESE COLOR TELEVISION EXPORTS WITH MITI VICE MINISTER MASUDA.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH YOSHINO CENTERED ON DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE FOR THE SUMMIT ON TRADE WHICH THE JAPANESE HAD RECEIVED FROM US THE DAY BEFORE. IN GENERAL THE LANGUAGE IN OUR DRAFT PRESENTED THEM LITTLE PROBLEM AND THEY AGREED THAT IT SET THE RIGHT TONE. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS BOTH POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE BUT WERE CONCERNED THAT ON THE MTN SOME SPECIFICS MIGHT CREATE DIFFICULTIES WITH OTHER MINISTRIES IN THE GOJ. PARTICULARLY, THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON AGRICULTURE AS A PRIORITY NEGOTIATION WOULD, YOSHINO ANTICIPATES, BE SENSITIVE WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THEY APPRECIATE THAT OUR EMPHASIS IS ON BREAKING THE AGRICULTURE DEAD-LOCK SO THAT THE MTN CAN MOVE FORWARD AND THAT WE DID NOT INTEND THAT AGRICULTURE MOVE AHEAD OF OTHER ISSUES--IN FACT, WE REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT AGRICULTURE AND OTHER ISSUES SHOULD MOVE AHEAD TOGETHER. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT TOO PRECISE LANGUAGE ON GRAIN RESERVES NEGOTIATIONS WOULD GIVE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SOME DIFFICULTY. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THEY ARE IN GENERAL AGREED WITH OUR DRAFT LANGUAGE AND WILL TAKE UP SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE OWEN GROUP AFTER CONSULTATION WITHIN THE GOJ.

5. TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON TELEVISION PROBLEM
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RESULTED IN OUTLINES OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO AN AGREED RESOLUTION. JAPANESE INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT WITH A TWO-YEAR DURATION. NO LEVEL WAS SPECIFIED DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR CABINET SECRETARY ON EMERGENCY FISHERIES MISSION TO MOSCOW. MASUDA WAS PERSONALLY DESIGNATED BY PRIME MINISTER TO LEAD JAPANESE SIDE. U.S. SIDE CITED PREFERRED APPROACH OF ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENT PURSUANT TRADE ACT STATING THAT OBVIOUS PARAMETERS WERE FIGURES WHICH WERE IN BETWEEN THE U.S. INDUSTRY REQUEST OF 1.3 MILLION SETS AND 2.7 MILLION SETS. IN SIDE CONVERSATIONS IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE IN THE RANGE OF 1.8 TO 2.0 MILLION SETS. OTHER DETAILS THAT WERE RAISED BUT NOT DISPOSED OF WHICH DIVISION OF IMPORTS INTO TWO CATEGORIES, 18 INCHES AND ABOVE, AND TVS OF SMALLER DIMENSION, FOUR-YEAR DURATION OF OMA AND RELATIONSHIP OF AGREEMENT TO GATT. GOJ ALSO STRESSED QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE HANDLING OF 337 CASE IN LIGHT OF CONCLUSION OF OMA. U.S. INDICATED THAT THE TWO COULD NOT BE LINKED.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON AT THE WORKING LEVEL WITH THE HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED PRIOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE. TALKS WOULD INCLUDE WORK ON DEFINITION OF PRODUCT(S) TO BE COVERED BY AGREEMENT. DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WOULD INCLUDE EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE FORMATS FOR US/GOJ AGREEMENT ON COLOR TELEVISIONS.

7. PRESS GUIDANCE: BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESS THEY WOULD SAY A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR SETTLEMENT OF TV ISSUE WERE DISCUSSED, PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND BOTH LOOK FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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